

## **Statistics of Interest Year to Date** (January-June 2010)

### **A summary of statistics regarding a lack of documentation for children reviewed January-June 2010**

- In 40.2% of the children's cases the case plan was incomplete.
  - In 2009, 5.7% of the children's case plans were incomplete.
  - During late 2009 – early 2010 there was retraining on what statute requires a case plan to contain. This may account for some of the variance.
- In 49.1% of the children's cases where there was to be court-ordered supervised visitation, there was no documentation in the DHHS file regarding children's court-ordered supervised visitation with the parents.
- In 20.0% of the children's cases there was no documentation about the service coordinator's contact with the child in the 30 days prior to the review.
- In 13.0% of the children's cases there was no information in the DHHS file regarding contact with siblings in out-of-home care.
  - In 2009, 12.7% of the cases had no information in the DHHS file regarding sibling contacts.
- In 17.6% of the children's cases where there was to be court-ordered supervised visitation, there was no information in the DHHS file regarding who was to be providing this supervision.
- In 8.7% of the cases there was no current written plan.
- In 15.4% of the children's cases there was no documentation regarding whether the child's placement was through the Lead Agency or one of its subcontractors.
- In 19.7% of the children's cases there was no documentation regarding why the child's most recent placement change took place.
- In 20.7% of the cases it was unclear if there was progress towards permanency (often related to a lack of documentation).

**Key findings regarding documentation missing from DHHS files  
for 313 reviews  
conducted June 6-July 31, 2010**

In conjunction with DHHS, review specialists are completing a form during the review process indicating what items were missing from the DHHS file. These forms are being shared with DHHS officials and Lead Agencies in an effort to improve file documentation.

| <b>Percent missing documentation</b> | <b>Documentation type</b>                    |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 49.8%                                | Therapy reports                              |
| 42.2%                                | Health records other than immunization       |
| 38.3%                                | Current visitation reports                   |
| 30.7%                                | Immunization reports                         |
| 33.9%                                | Placement reports, including treatment plans |
| 27.2%                                | Paternity information                        |
| 16.6%                                | Current monthly contact reports              |

In addition, home study, licensing study, or home study updates were missing for 140 children.

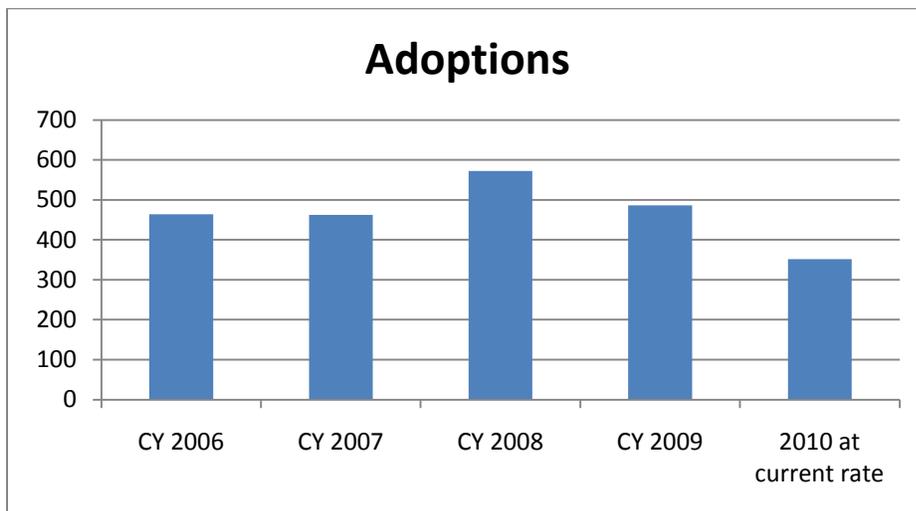
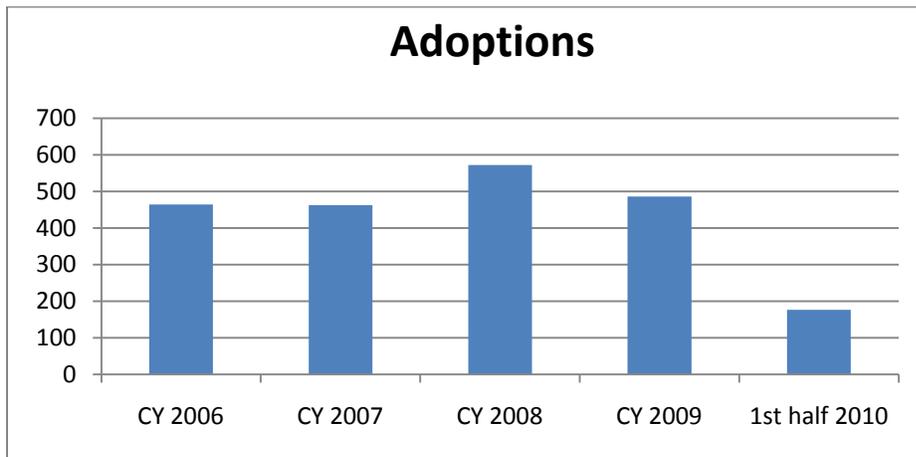
The 313 children above were from the following DHHS offices:

- 175 were from Omaha
- 68 were from Lincoln
- 13 were from Kearney
- 12 were from Dakota City
- 10 were from Columbus
- 8 were from Fremont
- 8 were from Norfolk
- 7 were from Papillion
- 6 were from Grand Island
- 6 were from Seward

## Adoptions of children in foster care

This includes all children regardless of whether assigned to a lead agency.

| Period             | Number of Children |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jan.-June 2010     | 176 children       |
| Calendar Year 2009 | 486 children       |
| Calendar Year 2008 | 572 children       |
| Calendar Year 2007 | 462 children       |
| Calendar Year 2006 | 464 children       |



| <b>County</b> | <b>Adoptions Completed</b> |                |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|               | <b>1st half 2010</b>       | <b>CY 2009</b> |
| Adams         |                            | 8              |
| Antelope      | 1                          | 1              |
| Box Butte     |                            | 1              |
| Boyd          | 3                          |                |
| Buffalo       | 1                          | 2              |
| Burt          | 3                          |                |
| Butler        | 2                          | 4              |
| Cass          |                            | 8              |
| Chase         | 1                          | 1              |
| Cheyenne      | 2                          | 1              |
| Clay          |                            | 1              |
| Custer        | 1                          |                |
| Dakota        |                            | 5              |
| Dawson        | 1                          | 3              |
| Dodge         | 4                          | 15             |
| Douglas       | 62                         | 183            |
| Dundy         |                            | 1              |
| Fillmore      | 1                          |                |
| Frontier      |                            | 2              |
| Gage          | 1                          | 7              |
| Greeley       | 1                          |                |
| Hall          | 13                         | 9              |
| Hamilton      |                            | 1              |
| Harlan        | 1                          | 4              |
| Holt          |                            | 1              |
| Howard        |                            | 2              |
| Jefferson     |                            | 1              |
| Johnson       |                            | 3              |
| Kearney       | 1                          |                |
| Keith         |                            | 1              |
| Kimball       | 1                          |                |
| Lancaster     | 33                         | 136            |
| Lincoln       | 9                          | 10             |
| Madison       | 13                         | 12             |
| Morrill       |                            | 7              |
| Otoe          |                            | 1              |
| Platte        |                            | 5              |
| Saline        | 1                          | 1              |
| Sarpy         | 4                          | 10             |
| Scotts Bluff  | 13                         | 29             |
| Seward        | 1                          |                |
| York          | 2                          | 11             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>176</b>                 | <b>487</b>     |

## Assigned to a Lead Agency

1,855 (77.9%) of the 2,381 children reviewed Jan.-June 2010 were assigned by DHHS to a lead agency for service coordination at the time of the review.

Some cases were still in the process of transferring at the time of the reviews, others transferred back to DHHS due to Visinet's declaration of bankruptcy and Cedar's withdrawal from the contracts, thus not all cases had a Lead Agency assigned.

## Service Coordinators

### Number of Service Coordinators assigned to children's cases

The Data Coordinator began working with the N-FOCUS teams last year on obtaining a means to record this data on the FCRB tracking system. The place in which to record this became available in July. The Data Coordinator conducted testing prior to the July release, and has tested the field since becoming operational to ensure data could be retrieved accurately.

As of August 24, 2010, tracking system staff were entering the data on all service coordinators assigned to children's cases since the reform took effect. It is estimated that data entry will be complete in late September. The number of service coordinators will be reported at that time.

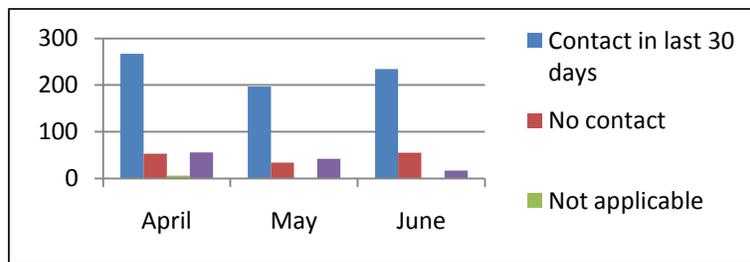
### Service Coordinator contact with the child in the last 30 days

| Children Assigned to Lead Agencies Reviewed YTD | Service Coord. Contact in last 30 days | No contact in last 30 days | Not applicable* | Not in file    |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1,855   | 1,222<br>(65.7%)                       | 233<br>(12.6%)             | 29*<br>(1.6%)   | 371<br>(20.0%) |

\*Not applicable includes cases that had been assigned to a service coordinator less than a month prior to the review.

Per contract, service coordinators are to see the children at least once per month.

Recent trends:



## Placements

### Subcontracting placements

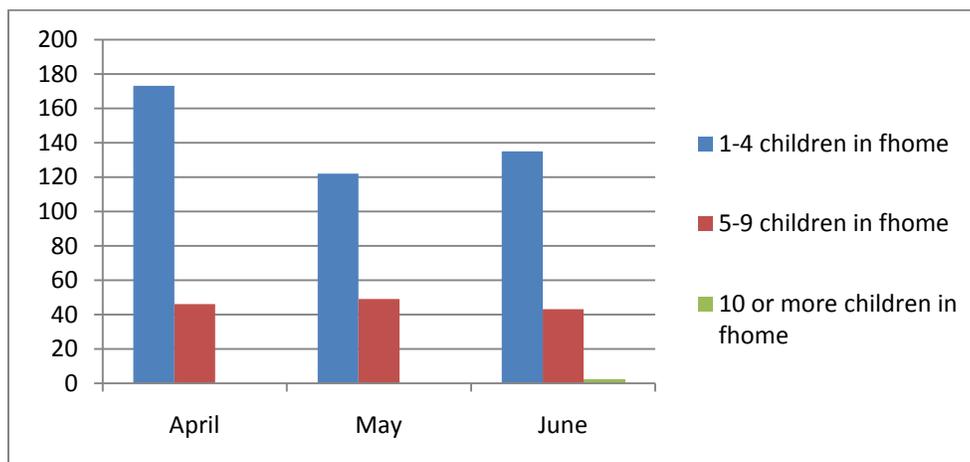
| Children Assigned to Lead Agencies Reviewed YTD | Is subcontracted | In-house (Is <u>not</u> subcontracted) | Not applicable* | Documentation not in file |
|---|------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1,855   | 752<br>(40.5%)   | 756<br>(40.8%)                         | 61*<br>(3.3%)   | 286<br>(15.4%)            |

\*Not applicable includes youth in independent living settings and children in hospital settings.

### Children living in the foster home

| Children Assigned to Lead Agencies Reviewed YTD | Type of facility where children lives                  |                  | For children in a foster home, the number of children in that placement |              |                     |
|---|--|------------------|---|--------------|---------------------|
|   | In a group home, other facility, or independent living | In a foster home | 1-4 children  | 5-9 children | 10 or more children |
| 1,855   | 753  | 1,102            | 817   | 281          | 4                   |

### Recent trends:



Reason for children's most recent move since assigned to a lead agency

| Children with Changes YTD | Different level of care needed | Reason not in file | Abuse or neglect in placement | Foster home request | Moved to relative | From shelter to ongoing | Foster home closed | Other         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 208                       | 42<br>(20.2%)                  | 41<br>(19.7%)      | 28<br>(13.5%)                 | 25<br>(12.0%)       | 15<br>(7.2%)      | 8<br>(3.8%)             | 5<br>(2.4%)        | 23<br>(11.0%) |

This reflects only the reason for the most recent move and not prior moves.

**DHHS caseworker changes**

This includes all children in out-of-home care regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

| Date          | Children with 4 or more DHHS caseworkers | Percent of total | Total DHHS Wards in out-of-home care |
|---------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aug. 19, 2010 | 1,549                                    | 34.3%            | 4,506                                |
| Dec. 31, 2009 | 1,533                                    | 34.5%            | 4,448                                |
| Dec. 31, 2008 | 1,588                                    | 34.9%            | 4,549                                |

**Therapy**

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

881 of the 2,381 children reviewed YTD were documented to be in therapy.

- 808 children received therapy through a private provider.
- 284 children received therapy through their placement.
- 123 children received therapy through their primary contractor.
- 38 children received therapy from other sources.
- 18 children had no documentation of who provided therapy.

## **Treatment Placements**

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

309 children had a documented professional recommendation for a treatment placement.

- 254 children (82.2%) received the recommended placement.
- 32 children (10.4%) did not receive the recommended placement.
- 23 children's placement (7.4%) was pending at the time of review, or not yet decided (as in those waiting for a court order).

Due to a lack of documentation, the above number with a professional recommendation for a treatment placement may be understated.

## **Transportation**

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

- 1,238 of the 2,381 children reviewed were documented as being transported.

Reasons for transportation (multiple reasons are allowed for each child):

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Visitation              | 573 children |
| Medical/Dental          | 503 children |
| School                  | 290 children |
| (excludes school buses) |              |
| Therapy                 | 240 children |
| Daycare                 | 107 children |
| Other                   | 57 children  |

## Visitation

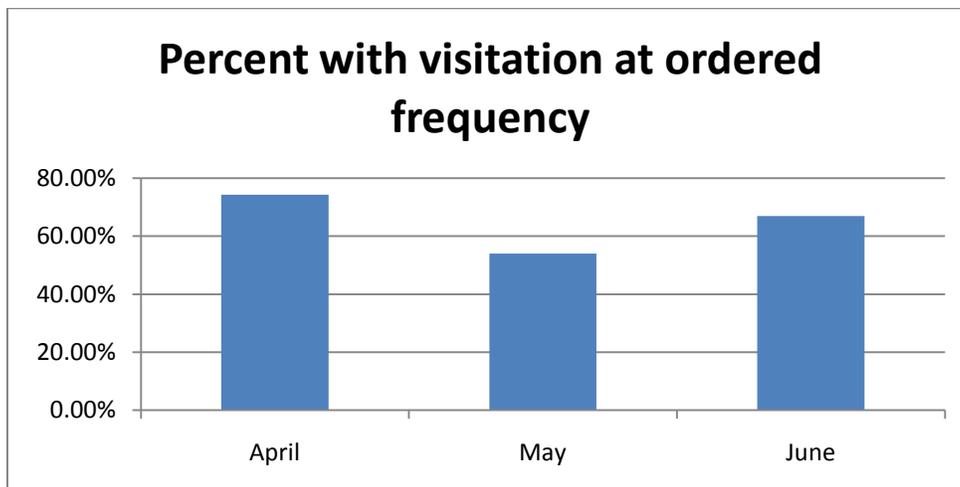
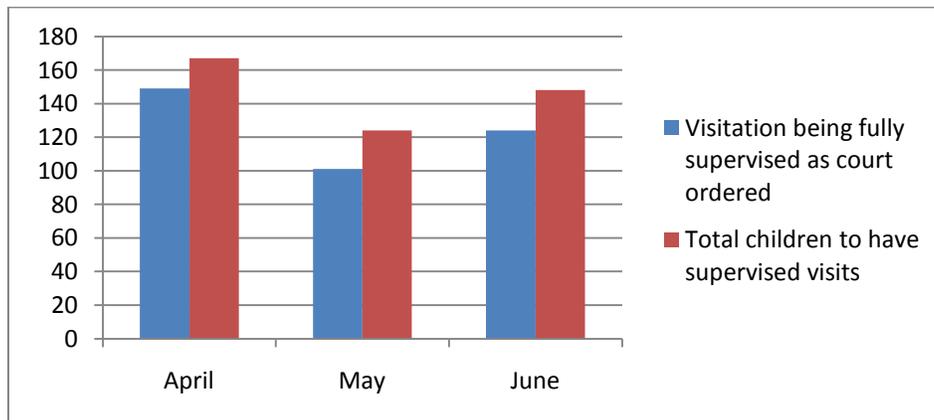
This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

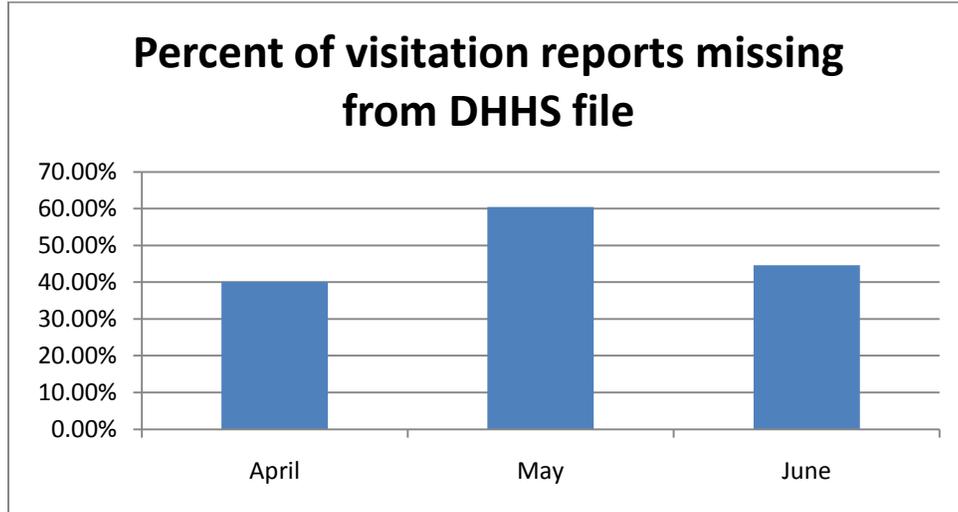
- 1,342 of the 2,381 children reviewed YTD had Court-ordered supervised visitation.
  - 901 of the 1,342 children were to have fully supervised visitation

| Total Children | Level is occurring | Frequency is occurring | Whether visitation reports were in the DHHS file |                           |                         |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|                |                    |                        | All reports in DHHS file                         | Some reports in DHHS file | No reports in DHHS file |
| 901            | 731<br>(81.1%)*    | 572<br>(63.5%)*        | 322<br>(35.7%)                                   | 137<br>(15.2%)            | 442<br>(49.1%)          |

\*Some of this was verbally verified. From this point forward this needs to have written documentation.

Trends:





| Who was providing visitation supervision |                |           |                          |                                     |                   |             |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Total Children                           | Foster parents | HHS staff | Primary contractor staff | Sub-contractor, therapist, or other | Multiple entities | Not in file |
| 901                                      | 37             | 1         | 273                      | 345                                 | 43                | 159         |

In 17.6% of the cases, there was no documentation in the DHHS file regarding who was providing the visitation supervision.

### Written plans

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

| Time Period      | There is a plan | There is a plan, but it is incomplete | There is no current plan | Total Reviews |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Jan. – June 2010 | 1,215 (51.0%)   | 958 (40.2%)                           | 208 (8.7%)               | 2,381         |
| Jan. – Dec. 2009 | 3,285 (69.1%)   | 270 (5.7%)                            | 1,129 (25.2%)            | 4,754         |

## Services in place for the mother

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

For the 2,381 children reviewed from Jan. 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010:

- 1,199 (50.4%) had all needed services in place for the mother.
- 144 (6.0%) had some, but not all, needed services in place for the mother.
- 971 (40.8%) the mother was offered services, but not utilizing them.
- 41 (1.7%) it was unclear what services are in place for the mother.
- 26 children's mother was deceased or whereabouts were unknown.

## Contact with siblings

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

| <b>Time Period</b> | <b>No contact</b> | <b>Contact info not in file</b> | <b>Contact with all sibs documented</b> | <b>Contact with some sibs documented</b> | <b>Total reviewed who have siblings</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| First half of 2009 | 237<br>(12.4%)    | 178<br>(9.3%)                   | 1,161<br>(60.9%)                        | 330 (17.3%)                              | 1,906                                   |
| First half of 2010 | 203<br>(10.6%)    | 249<br>(13.0%)                  | 1,234<br>(64.6%)                        | 224 (11.7%)                              | 1,910                                   |

## Progress towards permanency

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

| <b>Time Period</b> | <b>Progress towards permanency</b> | <b>No progress towards permanency</b> | <b>Unclear</b> | <b>Total reviews</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Jan. – June 2010   | 1,124 (47.2%)                      | 764 (32.1%)                           | 493 (20.7%)    | 2,381                |
| Jan. – Dec. 2009   | 2,283 (48.0%)                      | 1,602 (33.7%)                         | 869 (18.3%)    | 4,754                |

## Aggravated Circumstances

This includes all children reviewed regardless of whether assigned to a Lead Agency.

In cases where the parent has subjected a juvenile to “aggravated circumstances,” prosecutors can request the court to make a finding that will excuse the State from its duty to make reasonable efforts to preserve and unify the family. These are cases where the nature of the abuse or neglect is so severe or repetitive that reunification with the child’s parents jeopardizes and compromises the child’s safety and well being.

The Foster Care Review Board’s staff members have been trained on these instances and have identified cases where aggravated circumstances are present. In these cases, the Board will recommend that issues be brought to the County Attorney for possible prosecution, if this has not already occurred.

| DHHS Area           | Children With Aggravated Circumstances Present | With Aggravated Circumstances <i>and</i> a Disability Diagnosis |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Eastern (Omaha)     | 49 children                                    | 19 children   |
| Southeast (Lincoln) | 29 children                                    | 7 children  |
| Northeast           | 6 children                                     | 2 children  |
| Central             | 12 children                                    | 5 children  |
| Western             | <u>4 children</u>                              | <u>2 child</u>  |
| Total               | 100 children                                   | 35 children   |